1/10/67

Dear Sylvia,

After my mistake in trusting Schiller, I wonder if I ought to try and give advice. Yet as I look back over the recent months, I believe I should make one major suggestion: when you have little time, use what you have for what may serve a constructive purpose. There were so many things on which I wanted to battel, so many personal things, insults and hurts of various kinds. I think I accomplished more by getting the second book done, even if in too-great haste. This, among other things, meant that I had to let the first carry carry itself, something we could ill afford to do, financially. I'm now satisfied it was the right thing.

Schiller is a fink. There is little we can do about that. His record is a shameful thing. There is one thing we must guard against on that. We must not attract more attention to it. I do not think it will be a big thing. There may be some things we can do about it, quietly, perhaps legally. I do not know. You've seen my letter to him and to others. But I interpret the release to also be a contract under which I personally would have gotten a 5% royalty that instead was to go to the Kennedy foundation. They have announced they will not accept it. Does this mean I am entitled to 5% of the royalty of the records? If this is the case, does it not also mean that each of the others is entitled to 5%, in a total that will exceed the income from the record?

Yesterday, in addition to the letters I wrote early in the morning, after I got home I phoned WCAU and WBBM. The Jack McKinney people were disgusted with the record and will not use it. Schiller has been invited to WBBM. If he shows they will peth me in by phone. Here your letter of 12/5 and anything else you can think of, especially his slanderous inferences about me, can be helpful.

Should anyone want to know more about Schiller, and I do not, he used to be a photographer for the SatEve Post. Mike Mooney, a senior editor, knows him.

I wonder if someone was greasing ways for him?

But to return tom my central point: you should be concentrating what few hours you can spare on your book and getting it out. It is, I thinkk, the major contribution you can make, and the faster it is done the more good it can do and the more good you can do, for once it is out you can reach many more people and speak with more authority. If there is a battle on the sidelines, see if one of us can wage it for you.

When I was on a panel show on WBBM-TV in Chicago Friday, with Gertz and an assortment of intellectuals, I found almost no interest in the record. Not the panel, not the moderator, not the staff. The major point and the only one of even slight interest is what the fact of the making of the Ruby tape reveals about the police.

No one I saw in Washington yesterday had any interest in the record. Later this morning I go to Baltimore to be on a TV show. If there is any reflection of interest there, I'll let you know.

There has, outside your radio show in NY and mine in Washington, been no interest in any of the content aside from Ruby, so far as I know. None in the papers. I do not thing we want to publicize his defamations.

Jones Harris phoned last night. He seems to share this view.

I now have the correspondence resulting in the Zapruder camera getting into the archive, and a few other things of interest I've picked up. I'll be in New York 1/30-I, if not sooner and later, and perhaps we can talk then. I'll try and get there Sunday, if you'll have some time then. I hope to be able to get up earlier. I'd like to be on the Gray show, as I've been invited to be, and to use the time as constructively as he'll permit. I may go to a northern university to speak before then and stop off going or coming. But there is another consequence of this type of thing that you've probably noticed already. Aside from the time required, it also takes more time: the time it takes to get (emotionally) back into working shape. These things, at least in my case, are a drain. They interfere with the best work.

But thinhs have now taken a certain turn, and other things may follow. As I havewith the previous things, I'm sending a copy of this to Bill so he can inform the others. You told me there was a scandal in LA over the record. I know nothing about this. Therefore, I'd appreciate being informed as fully as possible as rapidly as possible so that, for example, if I'm phoned by WBBM, I'll know. I am also, from time to time, on other stations by phone. There is also the possibility of a Washington followup (I asked for a tape yesterday).

This whole thing is still turning more our way. Popular reaction is almost 100% for us. Pressures are being put on the papers, I believe, and have been, and there is nothing we can now do about that. But the more information we get out the more we accomplish that serves a constructive end. The more time we spend in negative pursuits, the less constructive good we do.

Nizer has agreed to confront me. To prepare myself for this, if any of you has a Xeroxed copy of his introduction to the Report, which will be easier to handle and carry, I'd very much appreciate a copy as soon as possible so I can annotate it. Likewise if you have any suggestions along this line.

Also, you said Pyne was outraged at Capitol. I'm to introduce WHITEWASH III on the Pyne TV show, so all of this information will be helpful, now and then.

Sylvia, the reaction to the Dell edition of WHITEWASH encourages me to think the augury is good for yours. Concentrate on that. Try and bounce other things that perhaps I can handle for you to me. The only specific commitments I now have (aside from things that will not take me away from the home-Washington area)I've told you about. There is perhaps less rush on my work on WHITEWASH III than on your getting your book out. Here let me happily report that orders, usually accompanied by checks my wife is putting aside, are very encouraging. The mail brought 8 or nine orders for it yesterday, the other number the day before. One day last week, 25! I am satisfied now that I really am right in printing these documents, and all I can get from others, with whatever references are appropriate to other work than mine (I said nothing about this in the announcement, but I think it can be important. Paul Hock has referred me to one very good thing. Dave Lifton has promised another than I've not gotten and may not). I have two chapters roughted out. There may be as many as five. And I'm working on a new approach on suppression that I believe will be overwhelming, despite my certain knowledge this today is a literary fault.

Bill, if you mailed it, the scarf hasn't arrived. I had a letter that tells me the Lomax show was aired. What effect? And of the others, any detectable effect?

Sylvia, if you are going into Marina, I have a Secret Service report that shows that, had she been a prize cow, she could have been milked no more thoroughly. Before she got anything, 35% went off the top. Robert Oswald even got 10%! Thorn, 10% and Martin 15%. The SS got interested in this and got a report from Gopadze when he was in LA. Bill, please remind Maggie of what she was going to send me. And when you speak to Ray, he monograph has not yet arrived, I could have shown it on TV last Friday and could today. You cannot always do thus, but these two time I could. I have been plugging it when I could.

Bill, if there was any decent play in your papers out there on Ball's speech of 1/2, I'd like it. I have the New York Times article of 1/4. I shall, at the proper time, challenge him on his accusations, especially of "no new evidence whatsoever" and "literary scavenging.

Excuse the haste. I'll not be able to correct typos. Best to you all.